Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.17/14
3 June 1997

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board
Seventeenth session
Vienna, 23-27 June 1997
Item 14 of the provisional agenda

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Director-General

Summary

Reports on measures taken and planned for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction		1	2
Chapter			
I.	UNIDO RESPONSE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/120	2 - 6	2
II.	ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD	7	2

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V.97 24126 (E) (a:\1997\pmo.2)

Distr.: 5 June 1997

INTRODUCTION

1. The present note constitutes a progress report on measures taken or planned with respect to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 of 20 December 1995 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. It is submitted in compliance with paragraph 55 of the resolution and provides supplementary information to document IDB.15/13 provided to the Board at its fifteenth session. At that session, the Board took note of the information provided (GC.7/2, para. 25).

I. UNIDO RESPONSE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/120

2. The resolution touches upon important areas, particularly modalities for financing of operational activities, division of responsibility and greater complementarity among members of the United Nations development system within the context of United Nations reform, the United Nations country strategy notes, improved regional coordination, capacity-building and better utilization of national resources through the programme approach and national execution, decentralization and delegation of authority, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening of the resident coordinator system, common premises and shared administrative systems and services, simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, and evaluation of the impact of operational activities for development.

3. A detailed report on ongoing and planned action by UNIDO regarding the various elements of resolution 50/120 was provided in document IDB.15/13. The various elements contained therein remain valid and continue to be actively pursued by the Organization. Specific activities are covered further in the *Annual Report of UNIDO 1996* (IDB.17/10-PBC.13/10), the progress report on UNIDO field representation (IDB.17/9), as well as—in a wider context—in the other progress reports to the Board on the various UNIDO programmes.

4. With regard to the greater integration of United Nations activities at the country level, UNIDO follows with great interest the reform measures announced by the Secretary-General in his letter to the President of the General Assembly of 17 March 1997. While it is understood that any new or revised arrangements will need to ensure that special characteristics and the distinctiveness of specialized agencies are preserved, UNIDO welcomes the call for increased support for national capacity-building, and—in this context—the call for an enhanced common understanding, policy coherence, coordination and collaboration at both the headquarters and field levels. The Organization also welcomes the request of the Secretary-General that all United Nations funds and programmes conducting development activities in a particular country join together under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator in a United Nations country team (see also document IDB.17/9). This would clearly facilitate the preparation of common programmes and resource frameworks at the country level in full consultation with and support of Governments concerned.

5. UNIDO has also continued to participate actively in the deliberations and activities of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ), a subsidiary body of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). In the year under review, CCPOQ has dealt with several aspects of resolution 50/120, in particular with capacity-building, subregional and regional coordination, role and functioning of the resident coordinator system, monitoring and evaluation, financing modalities for operational activities and operational activities training. These issues will be further pursued by CCPOQ during the remainder of 1997 and will result in recommendations to be considered by ACC, the Economic and Social Council and, eventually, the General Assembly.

6. The next comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities by the General Assembly is scheduled for 1998. In this context, UNIDO will prepare a detailed report to the Industrial Development Board in 1998 on status and planned steps with regard to all relevant issues under review. The timing will be all the more opportune, as at that time the reform of the Organization in the context of Member States' decisions on the future of UNIDO will have been concluded.

II. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

7. The Board may wish to take note of the present document and make appropriate recommendations.